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ABSTRACT

This report presents final data on the number of schools, students in membership, and full-time-equivalent teachers reported for the 25 most populous cities and public elementary and secondary school districts in the United States. Cities are ranked on the basis of 1986 population estimates compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census. School district data were culled from information reported to the Center for Education Statistics by the states through the Common Core of Data surveys for the 1986-87 school year. Among the highlights of the report are the following: (1) student membership in the 25 most populous cities of the country accounted for more than 11 percent of the total student membership nationwide in fall 1986; (2) in eight of these cities, more than one school system served the elementary/secondary school population; (3) students in 23 of these cities were taught by 221,475 full-time-equivalent teachers; (4) a total of 82 school districts served 7,736 schools in these cities and outlying areas; (5) schools in these districts served more than five million students; (6) the New York City School District, with a student membership of 938,606, represents 17.7 percent of the combined student membership of these school districts; and (7) more than 265,000 full-time-equivalent teachers taught at schools in 24 of these districts. Data are presented on two tables. (BJV)

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E.D.TABS

March 1988

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Contact:
Richard P. Cook
(202) 357-6626

Highlights

- Student membership in the 25 most populous cities of the country accounted for more than 11 percent of the total student membership nationwide in fall 1986 (table 1).
- In eight of these cities, more than one school system served the elementary/secondary school population.
- Students in these cities were taught by 221,475 full-time-equivalent teachers (excludes data for Detroit, Michigan, and Boston, Massachusetts).
- A total of 82 school districts served 7,736 schools in the 25 largest cities in the United States and outlying areas (table 2).
- More than 5 million students attended schools in the 25 largest districts in the Nation.
- New York City School District, with a student membership of 938,606, represents 17.7 percent of the combined student membership of these school districts.
- More than 265,000 full-time-equivalent teachers taught at schools in these districts (excludes data for the Detroit City School District).

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Characteristics of the Largest Public Elementary/Secondary School Systems and Districts: Fall 1986

This report presents final data on the number of schools, students in membership, and full-time-equivalent teachers reported for the 25 most populous cities and public elementary and secondary school districts in the United States. Cities are ranked on the basis of 1986 population estimates compiled by the Bureau of the Census. School district rankings are assigned on the basis of total student membership reported to the Center for Education Statistics (CES) by the States through the Common Core of Data (CCD) surveys for the 1986-87 school year.

Methodology

Data on the number of schools, teachers, and students were provided by State education agencies from administrative records in each State through the CCD surveys: Public School Universe, 1986-87, and Public Education Agency Universe, 1986-87. Data in this report are the latest from CES's series on annual collections of basic data on the universe of public elementary and secondary schools and agencies in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the outlying areas under United States jurisdiction. Data in this report are final, and no revisions will be added to the nonfiscal data files for 1986.

In compiling these data from administrative record systems, each State education agency obtains fall student and staff counts from its respective local education agencies which operate public schools. Since each State agency uses various methods to collect these data, the "as of" dates for counts may vary from State to State. Each State agency may edit or examine the individual local agency reports before computing State totals and reporting to CES.

If a State was the site of one or more of the 25 largest cities in the United States (determined by the Bureau of the Census), that State's CCD survey coordinator identified the school districts serving those cities in the fall of 1986.

Response Rates

Data for the CCD surveys for the 1986-87 school year were submitted by each State (except Massachusetts), the District of Columbia, and the outlying areas under United States jurisdiction. (The absence of data from Massachusetts had no impact upon this report.)

Definitions

Student membership counts are the unduplicated headcounts of students whose names were entered on the roll of the school district as of October 1 of the 1986-87 school year.

Teachers are people who instruct prekindergarten, kindergarten, grades 1 through 12, or ungraded classes. Those who teach in an environment other than a classroom setting are not included in this report.

Full-time-equivalent (FTE) teachers are required to perform an assignment stated as a proportion of a full-time position, as determined by the individual State education agency.

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Table 1.--Selected characteristics of the 25 most populous cities in the United States: Fall 1986

Rank order	City	Census population estimate	School districts serving the city	Schools	Student membership	Full-time-equivalent teachers
1	New York, NY	7,262,700	1	978	938,606	52,311
2	Los Angeles, CA	3,259,340	2	620	*601,764	*25,812
3	Chicago, IL	3,009,530	1	594	431,298	21,620
4	Houston, TX	1,728,910	7	385	*325,257	*17,569
5	Philadelphia, PA	1,642,900	1	255	190,119	10,593
6	Detroit, MI	1,086,220	1	281	185,499	---
7	San Diego, CA	1,015,190	3	188	*148,642	* 6,143
8	Dallas, TX	1,003,520	3	207	*140,569	* 6,883
9	San Antonio, TX	914,350	14	293	*207,260	*10,971
10	Phoenix, AZ	894,070	16	184	*127,055	* 6,262
11	Baltimore, MD	752,800	1	179	111,243	6,023
12	San Francisco, CA	749,000	1	112	64,786	3,260
13	Indianapolis, IN	719,820	1	89	57,310	2,823
14	San Jose, CA	712,080	17	202	*142,815	* 6,132
15	Memphis, TN	652,640	1	160	113,101	5,187
16	Washington, DC	626,000	1	182	85,612	5,749
17	Jacksonville, FL	609,860	1	145	102,966	5,350
18	Milwaukee, WI	605,090	1	145	90,657	5,416
19	Boston, MA	573,600	1	---	---	---
20	Columbus, OH	566,030	1	133	66,158	3,489
21	New Orleans, LA	554,500	1	139	84,204	4,752
22	Cleveland, OH	535,830	1	130	73,263	3,299
23	Denver, CO	505,000	1	113	60,315	3,379
24	El Paso, TX	491,800	3	128	*119,430	* 6,120
25	Seattle, WA	486,200	1	103	43,574	2,332

--- Data are not available from the State Education Agency.

* The student membership and FTE of teachers are aggregations of membership and FTE teachers over all of the school districts which serve the city. In most instances, the school districts serve geographic areas that do not have boundaries coterminous with city boundaries and include geography beyond city limits. Therefore, the reported student membership and FTE of teachers may be more than the actual number of students served who also reside within the city.

SOURCE: Population estimates--U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Census News, CB 87-165, October 16, 1987, and Revised Current Population Report, Series P-26, not released to the public as of 1/7/87. Education data--U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data surveys: Public Education Agency Universe, 1986-87 and Public School Universe, 1986-87, as of 9/15/87.

Table 2.--Selected characteristics of the 25 largest school districts in the United States: Fall 1986

Rank order of school district	Public school district	Largest city within school district			Number of schools	Student membership	Full-time-equivalent teachers
		Name	State	Rank order, by U.S. population			
	Total				7,736	5,298,186	(1)
1	New York City	New York	NY	1	978	938,606	52,311
2	Puerto Rico	San Juan	PR	(2)	1,739	3674,669	32,096
3	Los Angeles Unified	Los Angeles	CA	2	619	3589,099	25,476
4	City Of Chicago	Chicago	IL	3	594	431,298	21,620
5	Dade County	Miami	FL	36	289	243,690	13,302
6	Houston Independent	Houston	TX	4	239	194,389	10,135
7	Philadelphia City	Philadelphia	PA	5	255	3190,119	10,593
8	Detroit City	Detroit	MI	6	281	185,499	---
9	Hawaii Dept Of Education	Honolulu	HI	38	229	164,336	9,077
10	Dallas Independent	Dallas	TX	8	192	132,389	6,397
11	Broward County	Ft Lauderdale	FL	112	161	131,725	6,886
12	Fairfax County	Fairfax	VA	1,239	180	3128,241	7,094
13	San Diego City Unified	San Diego	CA	7	153	3115,441	4,793
14	Hillsborough County	Tampa	FL	54	163	115,373	6,877
15	Memphis City	Memphis	TN	15	160	3113,101	5,187
16	Baltimore City	Baltimore	MD	11	179	111,243	6,023
17	Prince Georges County	Upper Marlboro	MD	10,849	171	103,301	5,556
18	Duval County	Jacksonville	FL	17	145	102,966	5,350
19	Clark County	Las Vegas	NV	78	119	3,495,416	4,357
20	Montgomery County	Rockville	MD	496	156	94,457	5,480
21	Jefferson County	Louisville	KY	52	158	92,940	5,114
22	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	WI	18	145	90,657	5,416
23	Pinellas County	Clearwater	FL	190	127	88,934	5,237
24	District of Columbia	Washington	DC	16	182	85,612	5,749
25	Palm Beach County	W Palm Beach	FL	306	122	84,685	5,260

--- Data are not available from State Education Agency.

[1] Total FTE of teachers was not calculated due to missing value for Detroit City School District.

[2] San Juan has not been given an official ranking by the Bureau of the Census. However, a ranking can be assumed for this report. San Juan's population of 431,200 is intermediate between Kansas City, MO, 441,170 (rank 29) and Fort Worth, TX, 429,550 (rank 30).

[3] No prekindergarten enrollment was reported.

[4] Reported grade range was ungraded to grade twelve.

NOTE: The Boston Public School District was not included in the school district rank ordering due to the unavailability of student membership data from the Massachusetts State Education Agency. In the 1984-85 school year, Boston had a public school enrollment of 59,303 students, for a national rank of 45. This was the last year for which enrollment for Boston was reported.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Center for Education Statistics,Common Core of Data surveys: Public Education Agency Universe, 1986-87 and Public School Universe, 1986-87, as of 9/15/87.